



Oregon

John Kitzhaber MD, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

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Eric Fullan
Safety Manager
Portland Water Bureau
1900 N. Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR 97227-1807

Dear Mr. Fullan:

This is in response to your letter requesting information regarding Oregon OSHA's rules regarding fall protection in confined spaces.

Any confined space where the only actual or potential hazard is from a fall would not be classified as a permit-required confined space solely for the falling hazard. The rules regarding walking and working surfaces contained in Subdivision D of the Division 2 rules, as well as the personal protective equipment requirements of Subdivision I of Division 2, apply in these circumstances. Where other actual or potential hazards exist within a confined space that make it a permit-required confined space, then the fall hazards would be included, and the permit must address all of the hazards, including any fall hazards.

In answer to your second question regarding the height at which point a fixed ladder must be used instead of a portable ladder, Oregon OSHA does not have any requirements regarding specific heights at which point a fixed ladder must be used and a portable ladder cannot be used. Any ladder used, whether fixed or portable, must meet the respective requirements of Subdivision D of Division 2.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact David McLaughlin in our Technical Section at (503) 947-7457.

Sincerely,

Peggy A. Munsell, Manager
Manager Standards & Technical Resources
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